

RUMOURS OF PEACE IN FRANCE

It is reported that peace in France is expected and the King has sent M de Saucy to acquaint her Majesty therewith or else to see how he may be helped at her hands to stand the war. The Duke de Mayne is at St Dems with the King on safe conduct, the terms offered by the League being liberty of religion on both sides where it is, and, where it is not, no inquisition, the Protestants to have churches in the fauxbourgs, and the Leaguers to have in every province certain towns of caution for certain years

ABUSES IN THE NORTH

It is reported that in the north those evilly disposed towards religion hold May games, Morns dances, plays, bear baitings, ales and other pastimes on Sundays and holy days at the time of Divine Service and other godly exercises to draw away the people when men assemble together for the hearing of God's Word and to join in common prayers The Council have prayed the Earl of Derby to give special direction to all Justices to forbid these and the like pastimes to be in any place whatsoever on Sunday or holy days at the time of Divine Service, sermons, or other godly exercises, and to cause the favourers, maintainers or chief offenders to be sent up to answer their contentious and lewd behaviour.

Small reformation has been made in those parts by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as appeareth by the emptiness of churches on Sundays and holy days, and the multitude of bastards and drunkards, great sums have been levied under pretence of the commission, but the counties are in worse case than before and the number of those that do not resort to Divine Service greater The people lack instruction, for the

preachers are
 few, most of the parsons unlearned, many of those
 learned not
 resident, and divers unlearned daily admitted into
 very good
 benefices by the Bishop The youth are for the
 most part being
 trained up by such as possess papistry, and no
 examination
 made of schools and schoolmasters The
 proclamation for the
 apprehension of seminaries, Jesuits, and mass
 priests, and for
 calling home children from parts beyond the sea
 is not being
 executed Some of the coroners and justices and
 their families